Use of Additives in Processed Foods

3164. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government are aware that over 500 additives are being used in processed foods and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are aware that several of these additives including artificial sweetners and food colours are carcinorgenic specially for children and pregnant mothers ; and

(c) whether many of these additives are being used in our soft-drinks industry include Caffeine which is an additive in nature?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAMNIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rule, 1955 Food additives like preservatives, food colours, flavouring agent, flavour enhancers, acidifiers, emulsifiers, antioxidants, stabilisers, anticaking agents, anti-foaming agent and artificial sweetners are permitted in food products within safe limits, on the basis of Acceptable Daily Intake of these additives and technological necessity in the manufacture of food products, Chemicals which are carcinogenic are not permitted.

(c) Some of these additives such as permitted flavouring, colouring matter, preservatives, emulsifying and stablizing agents, citric acid, fumaric acid, sorbitol tartaric acid phosphoric acid, lactic acid, ascosbic acid, malic acid, edible gum, edible geletin, albumin, salts of sodium, calcoum magnesium vitamins caffeine not exceeding 200 parts per million, sact charin not exceeding 100 parts per-

million and quinine salts not exceeding 100 parts per million have been permitted in soft drinks.

Technology mission on population control

3165. Shri Chaturanan mishra : Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that suggestions for undertaking Technology Missions on Population Control, Blindness and safe Alternatives to Pesticides were received from a Non-Government and Organisation by the concerned Group of the Commission; if so the details thereof;

(b) what is the present status of these proposals ;

(c) whether the concerned society has been informed of the position; and

(d) whether specialist NGOs would be involved in framing, implementation evaluation and monitoring of Technology Missions?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Employees Employed by World Bank and U.N. Bodies

3166. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names and designations of employees who were employed by World Bank and UN bodies on deputation while serving with Government and returned to Government service;

(b) what are names and designations of such employees now in employment with Government/or Statutory Bodies etc.;

(c) whether it is a fact that after 4-5 years of service with World Bank/UN bodies these employees are entitled to a pension of about Rs. 5,000- of per month, tax free ; and

(d) whether there have been cases where Government employees have gone on deputation as at (a) above returned back to Government, gone again second time and returned back to Government and if so name and designations of such personnel now serving with Government or recently retired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Prohibition on Irradiated Food

3167. SHRI N.E. BALARAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Maine State in USA has passed legislation prohibiting irradiated food in any form from being sold there ;

(b) whether Government are also aware that other States in USA are considering similar measures ;

(c) whether in several other countries like West Germany, UK, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand food irradiation is not permitted ; and

(d) whether in view of serious controversy over dangers from food irradiation, whether Government would place a moratorium on food irradiation until safety is ensured and tests for irradiation developed and labelling is ensured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) At present, countries like West Germany, UK, Sweden, Australia and New Zealand do not permit food irradiation owing to many reasons including the lack of method of detecting irradiated food. Advisory Committee on Irradiated and Novel Foods of UK has, however, recommended irradiation. In USA the federal Government has cleared irradiation upto 1 Kgy for all foods and 30 Kgy for spices. A joint committee of PAO, WHO and IAEA has cleared foods irradiated upto an overall average dose of 10 Kgy as safe for human consumption. Therefore, there is no valid reason for placing a moratorium on food irradiation in India. However, detailed rules, under the Atomic Energy Act, 1960 are being evolved to ensure safety for consumers before clearing irradiated foods for consumption in India.

Seminar on consumer health and Rational Drugs

3168. SHRI N.E. BALARAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to satate :

(a) whether Mahila Dakshta Samiti had recently organised a Seminar on Consumer Health and rational drugs in Delhi ;